

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game Sport Fisheries Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Sport Fisheries Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

By law, the mission of the Division of Sport Fish is to protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources.

Core Services

Fishery Stock Assessment: The division regularly assesses fish populations that are the basis of our state's recreational and personal use fisheries to assure sustained yield from these fishery resources.

Fishery Management: The division develops and implements fishery regulations and management plans in coordination with the Alaska Board of Fisheries and other regulatory boards to manage recreational and personal use fisheries consistent with the sustained yield principle.

Hatchery Production: The division maintains or supports hatcheries producing chinook/coho salmon, rainbow trout, char and grayling to supplement recreational fishing opportunities.

Access Development, Maintenance and Defense: The division builds, buys, leases, and maintains physical access and defends legal access to fisheries and hunts for the benefit of Alaska's recreational and personal use anglers, hunters and boaters.

Habitat: The division conducts habitat assessment and restoration, permitting and management of legislatively designated Special Areas, oil spill response, and review of resource development projects.

Information and Education: The division conducts outreach to inform and educate the public regarding sport fishing opportunities, regulations, and the life histories of fishes and their habitat needs.

Enforcement: The division assists in enforcement of state laws and regulations to assure orderly and legal recreational and personal use fisheries.

Planning and Survey: The division monitors the preferences of anglers regarding the management of Alaska's recreational and personal use fisheries through strategic planning and surveys of public opinion.

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>A: Sustained recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits from these opportunities.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Provide 2.5 million angler days and sell 450,000 licenses.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Total number of angler days and number of licensed anglers.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> A positive trend in trip related expenditures as measured by the National Survey of Hunting and Fishing.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Trend in the line graphing trip related expenditures.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Increase to at least 75% the number of anglers that are satisfied with the variety of recreational fisheries experiences available.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Percent of anglers satisfied with the variety</p>	<p>A1: Increase recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Maintain the harvest of hatchery-produced fish (1999-2003).</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Number of hatchery-produced fish harvested.</p> <p>A2: Conserve, manage and enhance habitat to sustain fish and wildlife resources while optimizing social and economic benefit.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> 100% of state-owned roadway mileage will have a fish passage assessment of culverts conducted by 2015.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of state-owned roadway mileage that has had a fish passage assessment of culverts conducted by 2015.</p> <p>A3: Manage Alaska's special areas in accordance</p>

of experiences available.

with legislative guidelines.

Target #1: Increase by 1 the number of special management areas that have current management plans.

Measure #1: Change in number of special management areas that have management plans.

A4: Maintain access to public resources.

Target #1: Complete an average of 3 boating access projects per year over 5 years.

Measure #1: Average number of boating access projects completed in a five year period.

Target #2: One hundred percent of legal access related documents received are reviewed within specified time frames (ANCSA conveyances, native allotment conveyances, municipal conveyances, subdivision plats, section line easements).

Measure #2: Percent of access related documents received that are reviewed within specified timeframes.

A5: Educate and inform Alaskans about recreational fishing opportunities and skills, and the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources and their uses for future generations.

Target #1: One hundred percent of the division's educational programming objectives will be to educate Alaskans about recreational fishing opportunities and skills, and/or the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations.

Measure #1: % of division's educational programming that include the education of Alaskans about recreational fishing opportunities and skills, and/or the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations as the primary object.

Target #2: Seventy five percent of participants can meet the specified objectives of the educational program in which they participate.

Measure #2: % of participants in the Division of Sport Fisheries education programs that have awareness and knowledge of recreational fishing opportunities and skills, and/or the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations.

A6: Maintain a diverse, dedicated, motivated, empowered, and effective workforce.

Target #1: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.

Measure #1: Percent change in employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Develop measurable and achievable management objectives based on sustained yield principles that are consistent with Alaska's Constitution.
- Obtain and report information on the development, achievement, and evaluation of management objectives.
- Develop enforceable regulations and emergency orders to achieve management objectives utilizing all available information.
- Manage fish aquaculture to preserve sustained yield from wild stocks.
- Manage populations of aquatic nuisance species to preserve sustained yield from wild stocks.
- Develop a range of fishing opportunities, recognizing variation among anglers relative to income, age, experience, ability and opportunities they seek.
- Publicize fishing opportunities.
- Enhance fisheries to meet demand, consistent with existing department policies.
- Support regular communications (phone contacts, meetings, etc.) with stakeholders to discuss management and research activities.
- Provide regulators with social and economic assessments of management options under consideration.
- Develop/review criteria to evaluate the compatibility of public access to fisheries with the aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats they affect.
- Review and/or develop policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to ensure responsible land and water development.
- Develop and/or review criteria on the quantity and quality of water needed to sustain fish, wildlife and vegetation.
- Develop and implement research programs to assess the relationships between fish production and associated habitats.
- Evaluate constraints on fishing participation and develop approaches for addressing management related constraints.
- Foster a work environment where decision-making skills are developed and recognized and authorities are clearly defined.
- Assert Alaska's sovereignty to manage the state's fishery resources.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$50,982,400

Personnel:

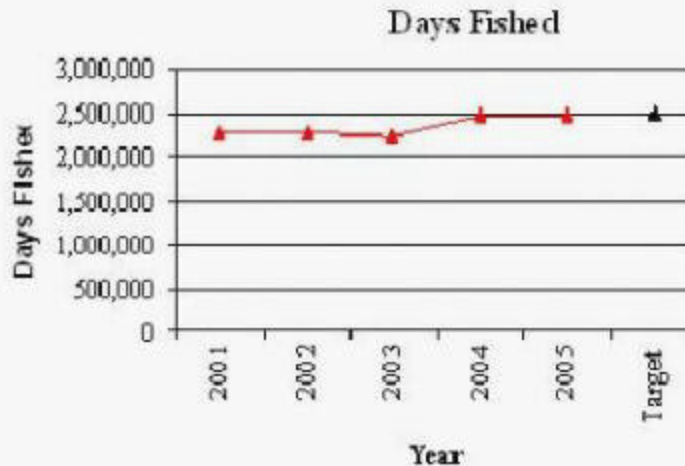
Full time	245
Part time	216
Total	461

Performance Measure Detail

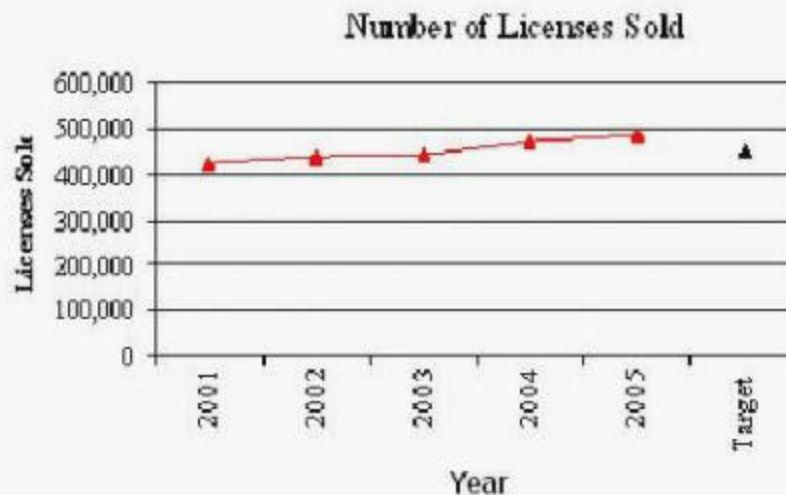
A: Result - Sustained recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits from these opportunities.

Target #1: Provide 2.5 million angler days and sell 450,000 licenses.

Measure #1: Total number of angler days and number of licensed anglers.



Note: Data for this measure is derived in whole or in part from the statewide harvest survey. Due to the timing of the survey the 2005 data is the most recent available.

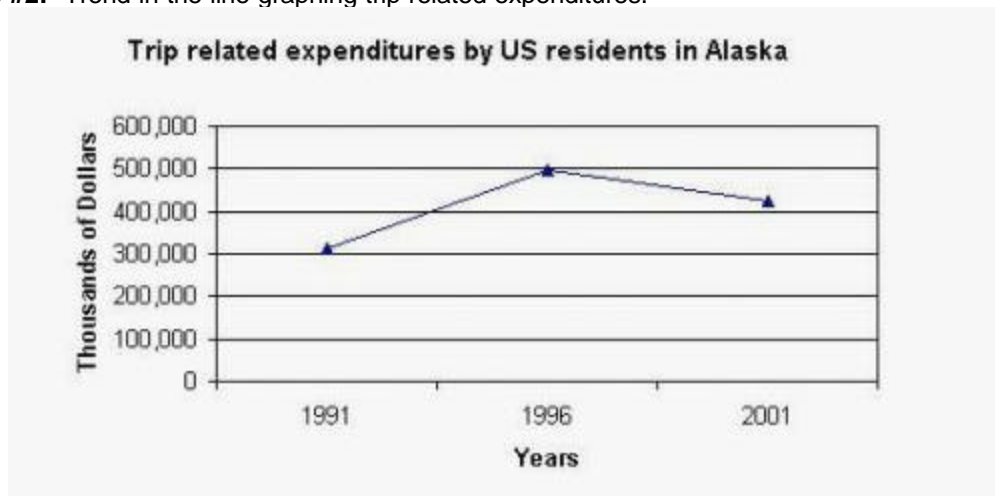


Analysis of results and challenges: In 2005, 487,000 anglers purchased fishing licenses. Licensed and unlicensed anglers spent an estimated 2,464,000 days fishing. These figures indicate that the Division of Sport Fish met or exceeded its targets in this area. Participation has generally increased over the past five years. Although license sales have been increasing somewhat in recent years, it is best to keep the target constant at

this time. A recent license fee increase may affect the number of licenses sold in 2006.

Target #2: A positive trend in trip related expenditures as measured by the National Survey of Hunting and Fishing.

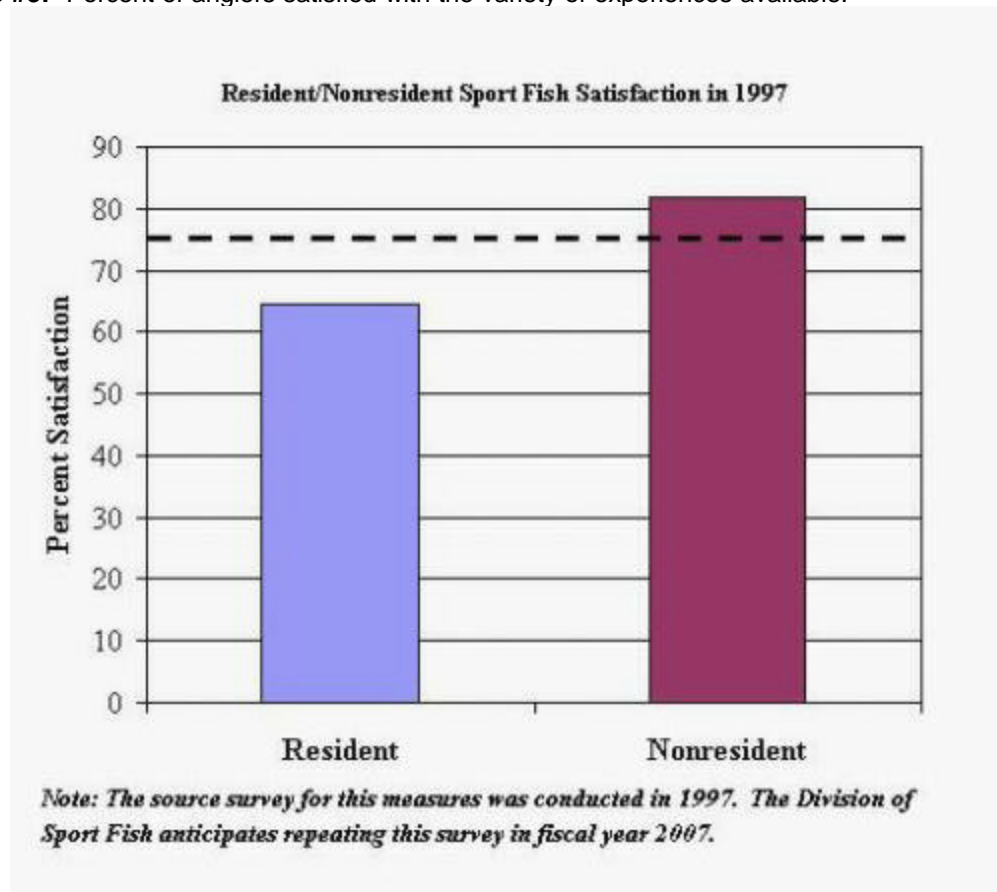
Measure #2: Trend in the line graphing trip related expenditures.



Analysis of results and challenges: The trend in fishing trip expenditures is generally positive based on the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation which is conducted every five years. Survey data for 2006 will be reported in 2007. Additionally, the legislature provided the Division of Sport Fish with funding to complete a study of the impact of Sport Fishing to Alaska's economy which will provide greater resolution than that which is currently available. The results of the Sport Fish Division study will be available in 2008.

Target #3: Increase to at least 75% the number of anglers that are satisfied with the variety of recreational fisheries experiences available.

Measure #3: Percent of anglers satisfied with the variety of experiences available.

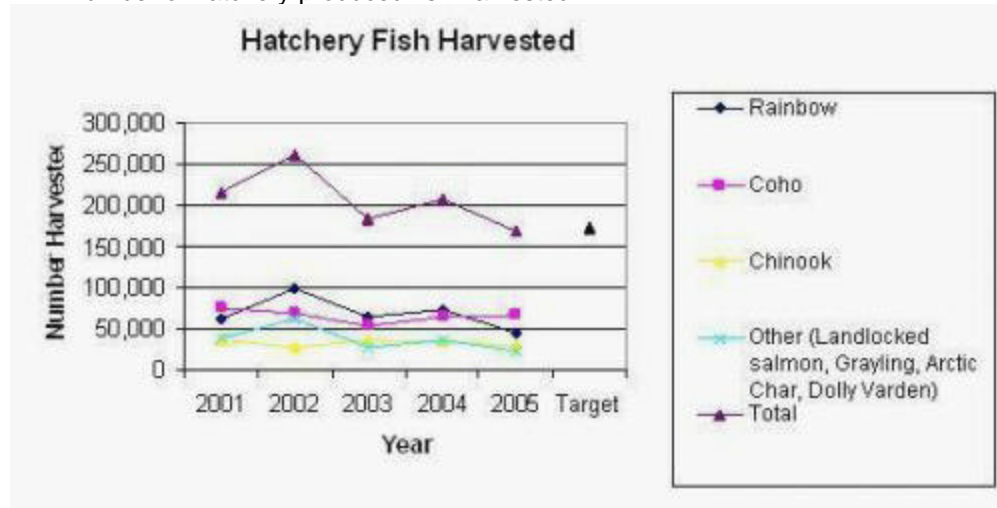


Analysis of results and challenges: Additional surveys over time will be necessary to further assess progress towards this target. The Division of Sport Fish expects to repeat this angler survey in FY 2007 or 2008 to once again assess satisfaction and to establish a trend.

A1: Strategy - Increase recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.

Target #1: Maintain the harvest of hatchery-produced fish (1999-2003).

Measure #1: Number of hatchery-produced fish harvested.



Analysis of results and challenges: The Division of Sport Fish has worked hard to maintain its hatchery production given aging facilities and the loss of heated water necessary for good growth. Given these challenges of hatchery production, the Division of Sport Fish has done well to attain hatchery performance targets and is poised to increase performance as hatchery production capacity is upgraded. These figures are based on preliminary estimates and may be updated following additional analysis.

A2: Strategy - Conserve, manage and enhance habitat to sustain fish and wildlife resources while optimizing social and economic benefit.

Target #1: 100% of state-owned roadway mileage will have a fish passage assessment of culverts conducted by 2015.

Measure #1: Percentage of state-owned roadway mileage that has had a fish passage assessment of culverts conducted by 2015.

Analysis of results and challenges: Presently, department staff has completed fish passage assessments for nearly 48% of state-owned roads since 2000. Once both phases I and II of the Central Interior Fish Passage Inventory are completed in fall 2007, approximately 70% of state-owned road miles will have been assessed. Of the remaining road miles, approximately 10% is in southeast Alaska with the remainder being inaccessible village connector roads (e.g., Ruby-Poorman Road, King Salmon Road, Red Dog Mine Road, Aleknagik Lake Road (Dillingham)) and small local community roads across the state. Fish passage inventories for these remaining roads throughout interior Alaska that are not connected to the existing road system will require local access by air, present logistical issues, and be comparatively expensive. Additionally, ADOT&PF has indicated an interest in hiring consultants based in southeast Alaska to complete that portion of the road system.

A3: Strategy - Manage Alaska's special areas in accordance with legislative guidelines.

Target #1: Increase by 1 the number of special management areas that have current management plans.

Measure #1: Change in number of special management areas that have management plans.

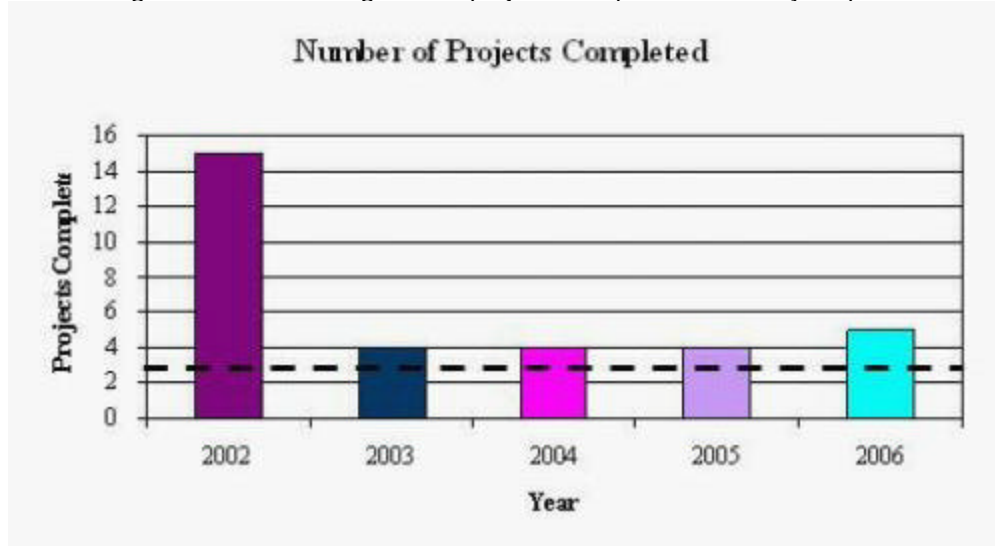
Analysis of results and challenges: ADF&G manages 32 special areas (12 refuges, 3 sanctuaries, and 17 critical habitat areas). The department has completed management plans for 14 areas; another area is managed via a DNR State Park plan; and one additional area is managed with an Interim Management Plan. The number of management plans has not increased in the past five years (2002 - 2006), although a revision of one plan was completed in 2002 and the State Park management plan was revised in 2002. 16 special areas have no

management plan. The department expects to complete creation of one new plan (Izembek State Game Refuge) and revision of an existing plan for two areas (McNeil River State Game Refuge and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary) during FY 07; the department further anticipates work will begin on one plan for the 5 Bristol Bay critical habitat areas in FY 08 (Egegik, Pilot Point, Cinder River, Port Heiden, and Port Moller) in FY 08.

A4: Strategy - Maintain access to public resources.

Target #1: Complete an average of 3 boating access projects per year over 5 years.

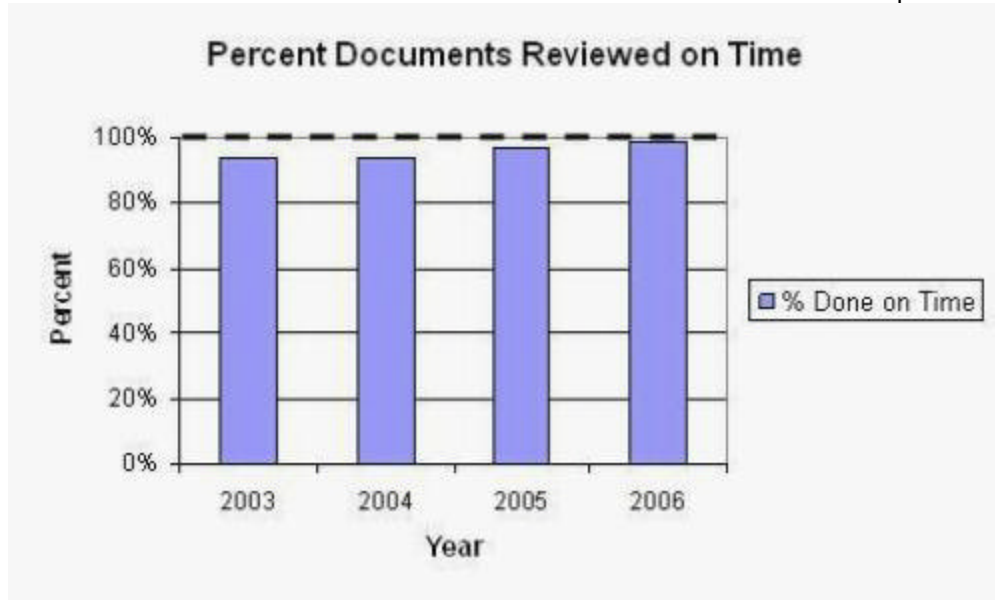
Measure #1: Average number of boating access projects completed in a five year period.



Analysis of results and challenges: Five boating access related projects were completed during FY06. These projects included upgraded boat launches at Amalga Harbor and improved parking areas, dozens of fish cleaning tables, improved toilets and sanitary facilities, and other amenities throughout the state.

Target #2: One hundred percent of legal access related documents received are reviewed within specified time frames (ANCSA conveyances, native allotment conveyances, municipal conveyances, subdivision plats, section line easements).

Measure #2: Percent of access related documents received that are reviewed within specified timeframes.



Analysis of results and challenges: The Division of Sport Fish reviewed 99 percent of documents within

specified timeframes this past year.

A5: Strategy - Educate and inform Alaskans about recreational fishing opportunities and skills, and the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources and their uses for future generations.

Target #1: One hundred percent of the division's educational programming objectives will be to educate Alaskans about recreational fishing opportunities and skills, and/or the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations.

Measure #1: % of division's educational programming that include the education of Alaskans about recreational fishing opportunities and skills, and/or the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations as the primary object.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target and measure were recently established. Progress on their attainment will be reported in 2007 or 2008.

Target #2: Seventy five percent of participants can meet the specified objectives of the educational program in which they participate.

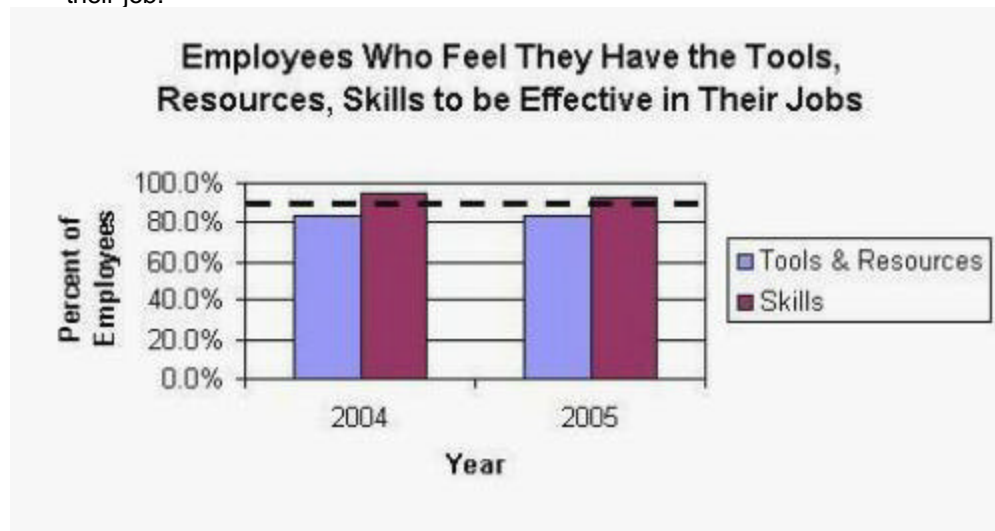
Measure #2: % of participants in the Division of Sport Fisheries education programs that have awareness and knowledge of recreational fishing opportunities and skills, and/or the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target and measure were recently established. Progress on their attainment will be reported in 2007 or 2008.

A6: Strategy - Maintain a diverse, dedicated, motivated, empowered, and effective workforce.

Target #1: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.

Measure #1: Percent change in employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.



Analysis of results and challenges: The Division of Sport Fish is close (83 percent), to reaching its target of 90% of its employees reporting that they have the tools and resources to be effective. With 93 percent of employees reporting they have the skills to be effective, the Division is meeting its target for that metric.

Key RDU Challenges

The primary goal of this RDU is to sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing the social and economic benefits these opportunities provide. Challenges that significantly impact this RDU include:

- constructing new hatcheries approved by the legislature in 2005;
- maintaining hatchery production goals until the new hatcheries are constructed;
- to increase satisfaction among resident anglers;
- maintaining hunting and fishing access as land is conveyed and restricted by federal land managers;
- assuring resource development is done responsibly and does not affect fish and wildlife and their uses;
- assuring that impact to other users is minimized while meeting the subsistence priority;
- sustaining important stocks of fish targeted by recreational anglers; and,
- management of harvest in accordance with regulatory board decisions.

One of the primary challenges facing this RDU is the threat posed to recreational fishing opportunities and the benefits they provide caused by imminent loss of hatchery fish production. With the passage and signing of SB147 into law in 2005 the long-term problem with hatchery-production was addressed. Given recent increases in prices of commodities, we will be challenged to build these hatcheries within budget. Issues with the site will also present challenges to maintaining construction schedules. Also, significant short-term problems remain until the new facilities are constructed. Loss of heated water and issues associated with aging infrastructure results in the division not being able to meet current demands. The division is exploring creative solutions to sustain current reduced stocking levels until the new facilities are constructed and operational.

Operating costs for all hatcheries have increased due to higher fuel costs and inflation in general. Specifically, operational cost estimates for the new Fairbanks hatchery have increased significantly as a result of fuel costs associated with heating water that originally was to be heated using effluent from Aurora Power Plant, a method that proved to be insufficient and too costly. Another major operational cost related to the Fairbanks hatchery operation is due to an approximate \$300,000 per year cost to discharge concentrated effluent to the local sewage system rather than to an on-site settling pond which cannot be utilized due to hatchery site limitations.

The major challenges in constructing these hatcheries are related to available funding and the fact that construction inflation over the past several years has been much higher than expected.

Resident Alaskans are becoming increasingly aware of the tradeoffs between maximization of sport fishing opportunities and economic benefits and the perceived decline in quality of fishing experience, especially in the road accessible salmon fisheries of southcentral and interior Alaska. A result is below target levels of resident angler satisfaction. This issue is illustrated in the continuing conflict between guided and unguided chinook salmon anglers on the Kenai River and in southeast Alaska. The division is taking steps to allow for better dissemination of biological information and facilitation of communication and interaction among the user groups so that “win-win” management strategies can be developed and forwarded to the Board of Fisheries for consideration. The division anticipates conducting surveys of user groups to assess angler satisfaction and demand.

Halibut is an extremely important recreational fishery in Alaska. Recent growth in this fishery, notably within the charter portion, has promoted discussion to develop a long-term management plan for this fishery. Given that halibut are managed under an international treaty, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) has primary jurisdiction over this fishery. However, given its importance to Alaska and that Alaska has a seat on the NPFMC, ADFG is involved. To provide stability to the charter halibut fishery, the NPFMC is looking to fast track a moratorium for halibut charter operators in International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Areas 2C and 3A. In addition, the NPFMC is considering longer-term options for managing this fishery, including initial allocations between the charter industry and the commercial Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fishery, options for state delegations, limited entry, or individualized quota systems. All these options require close coordination with the NPFMC, National Marine Fisheries Service, and IPHC.

Federal initiatives are fast-tracking Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) land conveyances. As these lands are conveyed it is necessary to assure traditional access is protected and maintained as required under law. Also, various federal land management planning activities threaten traditional access. The Division of Sport Fish is working with federal land management agencies to assure that traditional hunting and fishing access is protected and maintained.

Responsible development of Alaska's resources is a cornerstone of Alaska's economy. The division works with various agencies to review major land and water development projects to assure that development of Alaska's resources occur without significant impact to fish and wildlife and their uses. To accomplish this, the division houses the department's

habitat permitting and review responsibilities that resulted from Executive Order 107. The division also houses a water unit that has the lead on hydroelectric project reviews and protection of instream flows. The division also conducts assessments and restoration of habitats necessary for sustained yield management. Finally, Alaska's special areas are managed in accordance with their statutory mandates.

Federal oversight of subsistence fishing on federal public lands and waters is increasingly resulting in a loss of sport fishing opportunity across Alaska. Federal agencies have closed state-managed fisheries at various locations across Alaska. The division houses the state's subsistence liaison program. This unit strives to bring the best available scientific information to the federal subsistence decision-making process in an effort to maintain as much sport fishing opportunity as possible while assuring a subsistence priority and sustained yield.

Implementation of the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy (5 AAC 39.222), the Salmon Escapement Goal Policy (5 AAC 39.223), and the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Wild Trout (5 AAC 75.222) help ensure the sustainability of the state's fishery resources. Also, halibut are a very important resource to sport fisheries across coastal Alaska. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council manages all fishing for halibut, including sport fishing. The state sport fish program continues to work with the International Pacific Halibut Commission to collect baseline biological data and with the Council to assure halibut stocks are managed for long-term sustainability. Management of recreational king salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska is made more complex by the constraints associated with the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and allocation conflict among users. Maintaining the existing sport fishery in light of these complex restraints requires very precise and extensive harvest monitoring as well as participation in the technical processes of the treaty and ESA. King salmon enhancement and intensive stock assessment projects are the primary means of increasing angling opportunity and harvest.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

The Sport Fish Division's Fish and Game Fund balance projections through FY2010 indicate a steady decline, even if annual expenditures remained at the level currently outlined in the FY2007 Operating budget. In an attempt to arrest that decline and ensure adequate fund availability in the next several years, the Sport Fish Division has prepared a budget that replaces Fish and Game Fund expenditures with federal receipts in the form of Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux funds where appropriate. The Sport Fish Division's goal is to build the balance of the Fish and Game Fund to \$3.5 million by the end of FY10.

The proposed FY2008 budget absorbs inflationary costs (e.g. step increases, merit increases, various administrative costs, fuel, etc.). This has resulted in cuts throughout the Division of Sport Fish programs. These cuts will impact outcomes and the Sport Fish Division has attempted to minimize the impact by reducing those programs that contribute less to core services than others. However, some outcomes will be negatively impacted and/or delayed, including the ability to manage wild stock chinook and coho salmon and various resident species fisheries and the ability to reach educational and outreach goals.

A section of SB147 (signed into law in 2005) established a surcharge on sport fishing licenses which is deposited into the Sport Fish Enterprise Account (SFEA). The Division will continue to fulfill its commitment made to the legislature to expand recreational fishing opportunities in Southeast Alaska by annually supplementing State and private non-profit hatchery operations with funds from the SFEA for 10 years. Specifically those projects are: funding for continued operation of State owned Crystal Lake Hatchery which lost Southeast Sustainable Salmon Funds in FY07 (\$200,000); production of king salmon by Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) for release in the Haines area and production of king salmon by Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC) facilities for release in Skagway (\$150,000 each).

In FY08 the third and final project is expected to be initiated between ADF&G and the NSRAA. This project targets chinook salmon enhancement for sport fishermen in the Haines Area. The project involves NSRAA incubating and rearing a yet to be determined stock of chinook salmon then transporting the fish to a yet to be determined net pen release site in the Haines Area. The project particulars are still being worked out with a resolution expected next year and a project implementation occurring shortly thereafter. The cost of this project is \$150,000 bringing the total of the SFEA funds transferred from the enterprise account to \$500,000 in FY08.

A memorandum of understanding between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Revenue allows for the use of Sport Fish Enterprise Funds for \$500,000 of Southeast Alaska sport fish projects. The amount is capped annually at \$500,000.

This project specifically address:

Strategy A 1: Increase recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2006

Region I: Southeast

The Board of Fisheries addressed Southeast Alaska issues in 2006. The King Salmon Management Plan was altered to allow the sport fishery more harvest opportunity during years of high Chinook salmon abundance. Another major issue addressed by the Board was the increasing harvest of rockfish by sport and commercial fisheries in Southeast Alaska. The Board allocated a portion of the total rockfish harvest to the sport fishery and established regulatory options that could be implemented to ensure that over harvest of the sport allocation did not occur. In 2006 limitations on the sport fishery included reduced bag limits, annual limits for nonresidents, and a requirement that all demersal shelf rockfish caught be retained. The Division of Sport Fish also implemented a significantly expanded sampling protocol to ensure that the weight and number of sport caught rockfish is accurately estimated. Because of major changes to the charter fishery logbook program, Sport Fish management staff made an expanded effort to inspect and review logbooks. New protocols included on-the-dock checks of logbooks and fish harvested to evaluate accuracy and completeness of information provided on the logbooks. Stock assessment programs continued in all major king salmon producing rivers in Southeast Alaska. Over the past several years the division has been refining methodology to predict run strength in the major Chinook salmon producing rivers in Southeast Alaska. In 2006 accurate preseason forecasts were made for the Stikine, Taku, Chilkat, and Situk rivers. Escapement goals were met or exceeded in 10 of the 11 Chinook salmon index stocks in Southeast Alaska. Expanded stock assessment programs have been conducted for steelhead on Sitkoh Creek, Situk River, and three streams on Prince of Wales Island. These studies are providing valuable information on steelhead life history and strategies for management of sport and subsistence fisheries. A record run of over 15,000 steelhead occurred on the Situk River in 2006.

Region II: Southcentral

No major regulatory issues were addressed for Region 2 in 2006. Funding was secured and work initiated jointly with Division of Commercial Fisheries on three projects studying sockeye salmon in Cook Inlet. Results of these projects, Susitna River sockeye, Kenai River sockeye, and late-run Russian River sockeye run reconstruction will improve the department's knowledge of productivity and exploitation of these stocks, and be available for fishery managers and regulatory bodies to make management decisions based on sound science. Staff continued work on a multi-year program studying Kasilof River late-run Chinook salmon. The program will identify spawning locations and in-river run strength as well as collect basic age/sex/size data for five years. The Monashka Bay, Kodiak Island, hatchery king salmon sport fishery increased in popularity as an additional age class returned. We expect this cooperative venture between ADF&G and Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association with the purpose of increasing Chinook salmon harvest opportunity near the city of Kodiak to succeed. Stock assessment projects conducted in Bristol Bay addressed potential upcoming regulatory proposals and surveyed fish distribution and water quality in systems that will potentially be impacted by development of the Pebble Mine. The two hatcheries continued to produce fish that help increase and diversify fishing opportunity in the region, despite loss of "free" heat and other such issues.

Region III: Interior

Both management and research staff were involved in regulatory and land issues dealing with the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim sport and personal use fisheries in 2006. Staff has also been involved in reviewing and updating salmon escapement goals throughout the region in 2006 in preparation for upcoming Board of Fish meetings. Staff also participated in numerous meetings dealing with federal subsistence issues and staff continues to conduct a wide variety of research projects that are beneficial to those who participate in Alaskan fisheries. Staff continues with planning and development of the Fairbanks hatchery, site selection is complete and construction is planned to begin in 2007. Reduced productions from the aging hatchery facilities have resulted in stocked waters staff and fishery managers reallocating fish to continue to meet the angling public needs. The Chinook and coho salmon runs throughout the region were moderately strong and few in-season restrictions were required. The information and education program continues to be involved with rural communities to educate youth and adults in aquatic education and angling opportunities. We continue to help support University of Alaska graduate students to keep a fresh pool of candidates for biologist positions.

Research and Technical Services (RTS)

Since 1977, the division's Research and Technical Services unit has annually estimated sport fishing effort, harvest, and catch in all areas of the state. Division staff will use these estimates to determine trends in fishing pressure and harvest. Regulatory bodies use them to create regulations to assure sustained yield. Biometricians in RTS provided technical support for over 120 stock assessment and research projects for the division. Biometricians, fisheries scientists, and fisheries biologists in RTS served on committees reviewing the department's escapement goals and represented the state on national and international technical committees. Other RTS staff provided editorial and

cataloging services for technical reports produced by the divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries. RTS staff assisted in the monitoring of harvest in several personal-use fisheries through permitting programs. An established program concerning harvest by, and registration of, saltwater guides was expanded as per legislative mandate to cover freshwater guides and to cover licensing of boats used in all guiding businesses. Staff were instrumental in establishing minimal levels of instream flows for fish production in streams in Alaska, in licensing proposed for hydropower development, and in outreach to the public. RTS and divisional staff worked in concert to publish scientific works on development of salmon escapement goals. RTS staff taught several sessions of a shortcourse on escapement goal analysis to over 130 biologists from two divisions.

In addition to obtaining information on participation, catch, and harvest, the Division of Sport Fish and other resource decision-makers need information on the socio-economic aspects of recreational fishing in Alaska in order to maintain and improve recreational fishing opportunities and meet the statutory goal of optimizing the social and economic benefits to the angling public and the state. With funds approved during the 2006 legislative session, the division will conduct an angler satisfaction survey in 2007 and anticipates selecting a contractor in December to design and conduct an economic impact survey with a proposed completion date of December 2008.

Also using funds approved during the 2006 legislative session the division is improving its statewide mail survey. To date the Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) Improvement Project has addressed the following issues: 1) improving clarity of the survey instrument by simplifying the freshwater location coding system so that participation, harvest, and catch can be quickly summarized for individual freshwater drainages; 2) developing a new saltwater location coding system in the survey instrument so that participation, harvest, and catch can be quickly summarized for major saltwater management areas; and, 3) initiated hiring a new Research Analyst III to help with the redesign of the SWHS to an angler-based survey.

Statewide Habitat Assessment & Restoration

With the elimination of the Habitat and Restoration Division, the Division of Sport Fish took over responsibility for issuance of permits on the state's special areas, maintenance of hunting and fishing access, and implementation of fish and wildlife habitat research and restoration. In 2006, a Regional Supervisor position was created and hired to oversee these programs. The division permitted about 83% of applications for activities proposed in special areas within 30 days. In addition, existing management plans for the state's special areas have been reviewed and prioritized for development and updating. The division is currently working on two plans; the original Izembek State Game Refuge plan and an update to the McNeil River State Game Refuge and Sanctuary plan. The division also had the lead in coordinating the department's participation in a state and federal trustee's natural resource damage assessment following the M/V Selendang Ayu grounding.

The division also ramped up its access defense program in response to new federal initiatives to expedite Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) land conveyances and continued these expedited reviews in 2006. This unit also continued its review of state, municipal and federal land conveyances and management plans to assure fish and wildlife resources and their uses are sustained.

A cost-share program in existence since 1995 was continued. This program provides funding for private landowner bank habitat restoration projects on the Kenai River. An update of the Fish Distribution Database and Anadromous Stream Catalog was initiated in association with the Department of Natural Resources. The division also conducted ongoing inventory and restoration of fish passage blockages and initiated a new research project aimed at informing efforts to improve the design of stream crossing structures to benefit fish passage. Ongoing research projects conducted in Southeast Alaska included: determining habitat capability for steelhead salmon, lake classification, near shore marine habitat assessment, and stream habitat assessment. Additional work involved identification and cataloging of anadromous fish habitat. Late in FY06, a Research Coordinator position was created and hired to oversee and guide the division's habitat related research and restoration programs to ensure projects are carried out in a scientifically sound manner.

Other Statewide Accomplishments:

Recently, a discussion has occurred regarding the need to develop a limited entry system for the Alaskan sport fishing guide industry. The Division of Sport Fish has formed an advisory group of sport fishing guides across Alaska to discuss the need for a limited entry program for the Alaska sport fishing guide industry. Preliminary discussions have suggested a general level of support exists. Work is now proceeding towards identifying legislative options with affected users.

During 2006, the division's ANILCA Program has been involved in management and planning processes with the four federal land management agencies represented in Alaska: the National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service,

the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The ANILCA Program's emphasis in each action is to protect the Department's management authority for fish and wildlife and the public's ability to access and recreate on federally administered public lands. ANILCA Program staff participated in the development of a multi-agency Alaska Supplement to the national Minimum Requirement Decision Guide (MRDG), which evaluates use of minimum tools for administrative activities (including fish and game management) in Congressionally designated wilderness. In addition, the program worked on the following federal processes by land management agency:

- National Park Service (NPS): Dry Bay (Glacier Bay National Preserve) Off-Highway Vehicle Access Plan; Cantwell (Denali National Park and Preserve) Off Road Vehicle Access Environmental Assessment; NPS regulation revisions.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service: Participate as a planning team member in Comprehensive Conservation Plan Revisions for the Alaska Peninsula-Bearof, Kodiak, Togiak, Kenai, Kanuti, Tetin and Izembek; Refuges and in the Kenai Refuge Skilak Loop Step-down Management Plan.
- US Forest Service: Land purchase/Situk River; Wilderness Access Issues/Helicopter Use
- Bureau of Land Management: Review of 5 Resource Management Plans (East Alaska, Ring of Fire, Kobuk-Seward Peninsula, Bay Area, and White Mountains); Trapping cabin management

During 2006 the department has maintained its aggressive approach in challenging the unnecessary expansion of the federal subsistence program in Alaska. We continued to push the Federal Subsistence Board to (1) develop written policies and procedures; (2) follow its own regulations and court direction; and (3) make decisions based upon real data. This approach is meant to reduce the potential for arbitrary and capricious decisions by ensuring that the Board has a process and procedure in place for making consistent decisions in accordance with federal statutes and regulations, as well as court direction. Over the last year, the State of Alaska has also initiated court action challenging the Federal Subsistence Board in areas where it has over-stepped its limited jurisdiction, made overly broad or inconsistent determinations, or failed to follow its own regulations.

FY2006 marks the second year in which sport fish guides and businesses intending to provide guiding services for compensation must be licensed. Licensing requirements have added a level of professionalism by establishing minimum standards to both fresh and saltwater sport fish guides. Licensing of guides and guiding businesses has provided clients with the added benefit of knowing that a hired guide has some accountability. FY2006 provided additional opportunities to develop an outreach program in which sport fish staff made significant and valuable contacts with the guiding industry. In FY2006, enforcement of logbook reporting became a statewide priority. Strategies for assuring the accuracy of logbooks were put in place in 2006. This involved on-site verification by creel technicians, roving technicians, field biologists and area managers. Additionally, guide operators were required to note the fishing license numbers of each client fished along with individual kept and released information that would be returned to ADF&G on a weekly basis. Further verification would consist of an end of season survey to randomly selected anglers (clients). Logbook data will help assess how to effectively and efficiently manage Alaska's resources and ensure that the industry is regulated fairly. Logbook data is used in demonstrating the sport fish industry's economic value to the state. In FY2006, the saltwater logbook data became crucial in responding to data requests from the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMP) in their consideration of an individual fishing quota (IFQ) or halibut moratorium on the saltwater charter fleet. We expect continued cooperation with the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement and with operators within the industry

The Boating Access Program completed five Capital Improvement Projects (CIP's) in FY06. In Region I: **Southeast Alaska Fish Cleaning, F-13-D-108** - This project reconstructed the Thorne Bay fish cleaning dock (24'x24' dock with 6 fish cleaning tables and running water), and constructed 20 new fish cleaning tables that are being installed at various ports including Haines, Pelican, Juneau, Tenakee, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, Ketchikan, and Craig; and, **Amalga Harbor Ramp Rehabilitation, F-13-D-80** - This project replaced the boat ramps (two) and boat mooring dock, expanded and improved the parking area, provided a new vault latrine, kayak launch and some trail improvements. In Region II: **Homer Harbor Restroom & Fish Cleaning Facilities, F-13-D-109** - This project replaced old, pit latrines with three new handicap-accessible plumbed and heated restroom facilities (one 2-toilet unit, and two 7-toilet units). The project also provided a new plumbed fish cleaning facility consisting of three tables and a carcass trailer; and, **Shotgun Cove Access Improvements, F-13-D-114** - This cooperative project with State Parks resulted in the construction of two tent platforms, pit latrine, cook site with bear-proof food storage locker, and board walk trail. These new improvements are located near the head of Shotgun Cove in Prince William Sound (boat access only). In Region III: **Nenana Boat Launch Parking, F-13-D-94** - This renovation project provided an improved parking area and installation of a vault latrine at this heavily used site for accessing the Nenana and Tanana Rivers.

Approximately twenty-three other boating, angler access, and land acquisition CIP's were initiated, monitored and/or managed statewide. These remaining projects are in various stages of planning and construction and have anticipated completion times ranging from one to five years. In addition to CIP's, land research was conducted on numerous parcels

to help resolve trespass issues, and numerous small site maintenance contracts were completed for services ranging from trash removal and sanitation to launch site dredging and sign fabrication/installation. Issues pertaining to ADF&G access facility management and maintenance that related to natural events (e.g. floods), and user created (vandalism and complaints) were addressed and resolved. Access Program and Federal Aid compliance information was provided to inter and intra-agency staff and members of the public.

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Sport Fisheries
RDU Financial Summary by Component

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals				FY2007 Management Plan				FY2008 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula												
<u>Expenditures</u>												
None.												
<u>Non-Formula</u>												
<u>Expenditures</u>												
Sport Fisheries	0.0	13,718.3	12,744.4	26,462.7	1,244.5	20,282.0	20,623.1	42,149.6	4,402.0	21,282.3	18,975.6	44,659.9
S.F. Special Projects	35.8	3,032.2	3,916.5	6,984.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sport Fisheries Habitat	316.3	1,420.7	1,466.4	3,203.4	434.6	2,314.6	3,234.5	5,983.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SF Research and Restoration	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	753.3	2,314.6	3,254.6	6,322.5
Assert/Protect State's Rights	0.0	0.0	235.3	235.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Totals	352.1	18,171.2	18,362.6	36,885.9	1,679.1	22,596.6	23,857.6	48,133.3	5,155.3	23,596.9	22,230.2	50,982.4

Sport Fisheries
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	1,679.1	22,596.6	23,857.6	48,133.3
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Sport Fisheries	2,988.0	-538.3	-2,481.1	-31.4
-Sport Fisheries Habitat	-485.6	-2,427.0	-3,409.9	-6,322.5
-SF Research and Restoration	753.3	2,314.6	3,254.6	6,322.5
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Sport Fisheries	0.0	0.0	-800.0	-800.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Sport Fisheries	169.5	1,538.6	1,633.6	3,341.7
-Sport Fisheries Habitat	51.0	112.4	175.4	338.8
FY2008 Governor	5,155.3	23,596.9	22,230.2	50,982.4